

Journal of a Tour From Waimea to Puna & Koolau

By PETER J. GULICK

Read before the Kauai Historical Society, March 13th, 1922.

Jan. 7, 1829. Before the sun had risen, I commenced my journey, for the purpose of attending an examination of schools. Mr. Whitney, being necessarily detained at home, George Sandwich with 3 other natives, & a descendant of Ham from S. America were my companions. Four of us were mounted on horses, two on mules. Simeon generously furnished me a saddle horse. A hundred men, on foot (12 of them bearing muskets), go with us; part of them run before us, & the rest follow after.

This parade is occasioned by the governor's moving the same direction. He goes in a double canoe, but most of his men by land. I do not suppose he is apprehensive of danger; but is quite willing to let the people know, that he has authority, & is not averse to a little pageantry.

We steered Eastward, having the ocean in full view on our right hand, & "the great mountains," whose tops were hid in the clouds, on the left. Thus we are reminded of the righteousness, & judgments, of the Lord, which are immeasurable, & boundless, and at the same time surrounded by a people, whose situation, contrasted with that of my happy countrymen, affords an irresistible demonstration that "his judgments are unsearchable, & his ways past finding out;" & likewise admonishes us, of our unspeakable obligations to him, for his distinguishing mercy.

Two miles East of Waimea we saw a considerable brook, from 10 to 15 yards in width, & apparently two or three feet deep, & at least 5 or six feet above the level of the ocean, which within a few rods of the ocean was entirely absorbed in the sand. In an hour & a quarter we reached Hanapepe, a considerable valley in which Mr. Ruggles resided for a season. It is densely inhabited, & well cultivated. My sable companion riding up near to me said, very pleasantly to the natives, "Alua no haole," viz. There are two foreigners. He seemed not to forget that we are at least in one respect on a footing as equals.

Five or six miles East of Hanapepe I rode up to a house, & asked for a drink of water. The man of the house, who is a chief, invited us to stop, & rest a little, to which I assented. And had scarcely dismounted before some of the Governor's men came up, & with as much assurance as if they were lords of the land, called out, "homai ke ai," bring hither the food. Hearing the word, haole I supposed they spoke on my account, & was about to remonstrate with them. But forthwith fish, poe, &c. were brought, until the men were satisfied. And I soon learned that it was in consequence of orders previously sent by the Governor.

This is his custom, when he travels. A man is sent before to give notice that provision may be made, at the different stopping places, for him & his train; which frequently amounts to two hundred.

The man inquired whether I would be seated within or without of the house; & as I preferred the latter a mat was spread for me over the dried grass; & water & food were brought. But as I had provisions with me I took nothing except a piece of fish which, though roasted in the ground, was very good. We sat half an hour, & I could not avoid some painful emotions on account of my inability to reward the kind people, by declaring to them "the unsearchable rich of Christ." At Hanamaulu, ten, or twelve miles farther east, making about 25 miles in all, we stopped for the night; though we arrived between three, & four o'clock P. M. The Governor reached Hanamaulu which lies on the coast, in his canoe just as we entered on horseback. We dismounted on the way, I believe, more than 10 times, to descend declivities, cross brooks, & ascend steepes. There being neither roads, nor bridges in this country, traveling is not very pleasant. Twice at least, at the request of a kanaka, viz. a man, I was mounted on his back, to avoid getting wet. I with George Sandwich & a few other natives had a comfortable house. The Governor & his men had another, which was much larger, but not so commodious. The inhabitants brought us fish fresh from the ocean fowls, taro, potatoes, & a pig all except the 1st roasted or baked in the ground. That the pig might be thoroughly cooked, a piece was cut out of the throat & its place filled with a hot stone. The cavity between the sides was filled in a similar manner. A youth who went

with me for the purpose prepared my food. My bed, which was made with mats was covered with ten tapas; these were, the bedclothes, which according to custom were presented to the guest for whom they were spread.

Jan. 8. Before we left Hanamaulu I married a couple. This was my first public attempt to speak the native language. It was not however, without previous preparation. The place not affording choirs, the bride & groom were seated on a chest.

When we pursued our journey, the Governor, on a mule, preceded, his guard followed him, & the rest without regard to order, fell in the rear. Our road however, consisting generally of a footpath, we usually went Indian file.

Those of us on horse soon found the governor march rather slow, & rode forward a little more briskly. Five or six miles nearly North of Hanamaulu we stopped at Waialua. The kind people gave me a fowl, & a half a bushel of sweet potatoes. And whilst my dinner was preparing I walked out to see the place. Observed a little hill of pretty steep ascent, a few rods distant. Desiring to have a view of surrounding objects I ascended to the summit, & found a beautiful spot of apparently rich table land. The hill with a small compass about its base appears to be insulated by two branches of a stream which descends thru a narrow zigzag valley from the mountains on the West, & falls into the ocean a little East of the eminence. On this elevated spot, as I learned from the natives, the chiefs of this island in former times, were born. Their mothers, sometimes previous to their confinement, were obliged to retire from society, & provide for themselves as well as for their child. We had before heard, from one of the domesticks employed by the mission, that females were subject to similar privations. This beautiful spot (which seems as formed for devotion), as I am told, has often been stained with the blood of human sacrifice. Their bones, I am told by a brother who visited it a few years since, were then seen bleaching in the air. It is said they were accustomed to build a great fire & plunge the victim alive into the flames. This is one feature of heathenism.

Hearing that the schools of this district had not all assembled, the governor concluded to remain several hours at W. and to defer the examination till the next day. I went therefore with several others a few miles into the interior, to see a herd of wild cattle, after which some of the governor's men had gone, to kill a beef. Within two miles of the beach, we came to a mountain which on account of its steepness we ascended leading our horses, about half a mile. (Part of the way was through a path arched overhead with boughs from the opposite sides, & in some other respects like that to the dairyman's house.) When we reached the summit, a beautiful plain, 3 or 4 miles sq. appeared a little distance below us. It was free from underbrush, covered with a fine coat of grass, & cheered here and there with a clump of kukui, & hau trees which afforded a very dense, & refreshing shade. It appeared, from the point of observation, to be of oval form, & entirely encompassed by mountains, most of them terminating in pinnacles. On the Northern boundary a pretty brook meandered, as it were through the roots of the mountain. I judged the stream to be five hundred feet below the level of the plain. Its banks were very steep. These, with the side of the adjacent mountain, seemed more wild and romantic, than anything which my imagination had ever painted. Verdant spots, shrubs of rich foliage, ragged rocks, precipices, fearful gulfs, & lofty summits were interspersed, in almost every part. And the whole was enlivened by the music of the birds, & the sporting of wild ducks, with which this island abounds. On further investigation I perceived that the plain opened by a wide passage S. E. & N. E. towards the ocean & contains a large extent of apparently rich land. We discovered some of the cattle in small companies, & those of us who were on horse back, attempted to drive them toward the gunner; which led me near to the top of the mountain, at a distance from the place by which I entered the plain. Being anxious to view it from different points I ascended the summit, & found the grandeur of the prospect greatly to exceed everything which I had before seen. On the right hand the plain with all its beauties stretched itself almost as far as the eye

could reach; on the left the ocean, wrapt in profound silence (a rare occurrence since I landed at these islands) appeared to roll just beneath me; far S. E. the plain terminated in the sea. It may be said to extend across the E. part of the I. 15 or 20 m. & 20 to 25 on the N. The cattle were so wild, & so fierce when closely pursued, that we did not succeed; though one was wounded, & afterwards killed. The sun having set, we recrossed the mountain, whilst the feathered tribes around and above us were chanting their evening songs. The Governor and suit had left Waialua for Kapa, between two & three miles N.; thither we followed, & arrived at 8 o'clock.

Jan. 9. The schools having been examined, I was requested to marry a couple. Being informed they were ready, I found them with a few friends seated on the ground, surrounded by a multitude of spectators. That being the most convenient they were married in the open air. The Governor had several hogs presented to him, one of which he gave to me. And Simeon engaged to have it brot. to Waimea. From Kapa, the Governor returned, but Simeon having come from Waimea by a short rout went with us. We reached Anahola, the next considerable village about dusk in the twilight of evening. After supper some natives came around me soliciting tracts; which I gave; & endeavored also to tell them that if they did not repent and believe their guilt would be much greater, since they had received the word of God, than it was in the times of their ignorance. Was glad to find from their conversation that they understood me.

Jan. 10. We left Anahola a little after the sun had risen. Travelled over beautiful, & rich plains, the earth's surface was red mould covered in many parts with what is called by some, crab grass (I know not its proper name) & a kind of grass similar to the former, though very much larger. As we traveled West, the beauty of the plain increased. Trees were more numerous; & some of them appeared very ancient, were 5 or six feet in circumference with large spreading branches; & being thickly covered with wild vines they present many delightful arbours. In one of these, we saw a company of natives eating. They offered a part of their food, but we did not stop to eat. One of the company, however, at Simeon's request, being a tenant of his went before us carrying some S. potatoes (cooked) in a calabash. A little farther on, a man ran out almost breathless from a cluster of houses, to ask if we wished food.

It seemed the Governor had sent word that provision should be prepared for us. Saw a field of Kapa, viz. tapa, trees from five to seven feet high, covered with the convolvulus or morning glory. There are different kinds of tapa trees. One species bears a bitter fruit, which in times of famine, is eaten. Passed a beautiful stream, probably two or three miles long, which had been brought from a brook, that descends from the mountains on the South, & led over the plain at a considerable expense of labor. I was informed it watered a piece of taro ground in its course. Rode through large fields of lauhala, viz. a tree whose leaf is from two to 4 inches broad, & from 4 to six feet long; & is much used in making mats; & latterly occasionally for hats.

We reached Kailahi, the next village in our course at 10 o'clock. It lies in a valley between two steep & high banks, (called by the natives parries) & this is the situation of every considerable village that I have seen on these islands. Consequently they are generally hot, & sultry places. The descent to Kailahi was almost perpendicular, in some parts quite so. As I was leading my horse down he stepped on a spot moistened with the water that oozed from the tank, & slipped six or seven yards. Though much exposed neither I nor the horse received the least injury. Food and a pleasant resting place being prepared for us, we tarried a little & refreshed ourselves on sweet potatoes, fowls, fish & a pig, all cooked in native style. We arrived at Hanalei in the district of Koolau at 12 o'clock. After the examination of schools, I married three couples, whom I found, like some on former occasions, seated on the ground.

Jan. 11. Sabbath. Preached in the native language (which I had not before attempted). In the morning from Matt. 4 ch. 17 v. Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Probably 1200 hearers were present. In the evening my text, was the language of Paul and Silas to the Jailor. Perhaps there were little if any short of 1000 people present. Had to regret that I felt so little the spirit of my subject & was obliged also from ignorance of the language to read my discourses. The superintendent of schools in

this district said the people in this part of the island wished a missionary to reside with them. I have no doubt there could be 5 or 6 congregations, collected on this island, if we were able to supply them.

Jan. 12. At six o'clock, set out on our return by the same rout, the N. Western part of the island being impassable with horses. I married a couple by the way, & we reached Waialua at dusk, where two couples were married in the even. & we spent the night.

Jan. 13. Here we left our former track along the coast. Before the day star had risen several natives started for Waimea with torches of the Kukui, or oil nut in their hands. As the day was dawning we mounted our horses, & directed our course S. W. towards the mountain by which I had entered the plain mentioned on the 8th. We reached the summit, & descended to the plain before the sun appeared. Our ears were regaled with the music of the birds; & our eyes with the rich variety of the scenery on every side. Saw several small flocks of cattle & went near to some of them. They are not remarkably large but in fine condition. Are not now as formerly seen in one herd. Passed a few houses, one or two of them inhabited. We crossed the plain from N. W. to S. W. and left it as we entered leading our horses ascending a steep bank 150, or 200 feet crossing a brook, & ascending to the same height. A few rods distant we found a little cluster of native huts; & one of the inhabitants brought out a watermelon for the haole. Bearing N. & W. & again gradually S. W. with slight variations we traveled several miles on a ridge, between two deep, narrow, & densely shaded valleys. In several places our way seemed almost reduced to an edge, affording only a foot path. Each side of the precipice 10, 12 feet downward was nearly perpendicular. I scarcely dare look down lest my head should become dizzy. (This was the case several times during my journey.) But as my companions went on fearlessly, I followed. Though I perceived my horse, on one occasion, startled by a view of the fearful gulch below. Bearing still S. W. we found our former path along the coast; & at half past 12 o'clock arrived at Hanapepe. From whence we had a tolerable road & in one hour came safely to Waimea. Truly "goodness, & mercy have followed us" all our journey. We traveled o'er dales and mountains, through brooks, & rivers, & sometimes our road was crowded into the ocean. Frequently the water came half way up the horses' sides. Often we were obliged to lead them down declivities, over brooks, & up ascents, that seemed designed rather to be "a refuge for the wild goats," than to be a highway for the traveler.

But with all the inconveniences traveling is much more pleasant to me, in this "land of hills and valleys," of brooks of water, of fountains, & depths that spring out of the valleys and hills" than "in a dry & thirsty land" where the traveler must carry his drink or suffer with thirst. For often I drank of the brook on the way, & was refreshed, & sometimes I trust, gratitude was thereby enkindled towards him "who made the fountains of waters, and sendeth the springs into the valleys; which run among the hills, & give drink to every beast of the field; by which the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches." Kauai appears to me, to lie somewhat in the form of a parallelogram; & to be between 30 & 40 miles long, & from 15 to 20 broad; its longest sides bearing nearly East, & West. Its Eastern & Northern sides are much better watered & more fertile than the Southern, & Western. But Waimea on the South, is the only tolerable harbor for ships.

I had frequently heard the remark, that everything at the islands, seemed heathenish; & formerly I thought it needed little, if any qualification, was nearly correct. The exceptions appeared "so few & far between," that they were as nothing to the whole. But my opinion is quite changed. I can scarcely believe that our own Western country which is so much praised (& so rapidly filling up with inhabitants of neighboring states) exceeds either in beauty, or fertility, some large tracts including many thousands of acres on this island. And I doubt not that if properly cultivated, productions congenial to the climate, would flourish here. But traveling, will, I presume, continue difficult, owing to the numerous deep valleys, brooks, & steep hills. And good timber will probably always be scarce. I have seen one growing that can be called good. But the most interesting object that came under my view is yet to be mentioned.

In every considerable village there is a school house. They are generally built with care, & large enough to afford a commodious place for

Y. M. C. A. NOTES

HI-Y CLUBS IN UNITED EFFORT

The members of the three Hi-Y clubs of the Kauai high school have united their forces and are working as one in the promotion of the presentation of the "Love Pirates of Hawaii," part of the proceeds of which will provide a fund to send delegates to the Hi-Y conference in Honolulu the last of the month. This co-operation exemplifies the spirit of the organization. Every fellow is willing to do his bit, although he knows that he may not be one of the delegates chosen to go. It is carrying out the motto of "Help the other fellow," which regulates the Hi-Y work. The members of the Hi-Y clubs feel especially grateful to the members of the cast of the Love Pirates who have so generously offered to stage the opera again.

Every prospect is pleasing and all is set for the second presentation of "The Love Pirates of Hawaii" to be given by the original cast of the Kauai high school at the Makawell community house next Saturday night.

The Hi-Y Melody Mangers have accumulated a varied and extensive repertoire of syncopation concoctions. They shifted Willie's grave to dig the sewer, and one or two other touching arrangements are on the bill of fare.

Something new in monologues is promised in "Mose and the Mule" and "The Village Limosine," by C. W. Riley.

The pirate chief and his villainous crew will look fiercer (if that is possible) than ever, and are whetting their dagger and other cutting implements to a fence-rail edge.

If such a thing is possible, Dorothy will look dearer, Billy braver, and Miss Primer primmer.

A number from the east side of the island who were not able to secure seats at the former presentation have made early reservations; some who saw it are going again, while authoritative estimators on the west side declare every household will have a representative.

Tickets can be secured at Lihue Store, McBryde Store, C. B. Hogaard & Co., Bank of Bishop, Waimea, any Hi-Y member, or by telephoning 593.

SAMPAN COMES FROM FANNINGS IN TEN DAYS

The good ship Ebusho Maru, a sampan owned by a hul of Honolulu Japanese, arrived at Nawiliwili on Sunday morning from the Fanning Islands. It took the boat just ten days to make the trip with a record catch of ten tons of ula.

The fish, which are plentiful, in the waters near the Fanning islands, were caught and put in the boats cold storage chambers. One ton of them was sold to local retailers Sunday for \$334. The other nine tons were carried on to Honolulu.

At a wholesale price of less than 17 cents a pound we ought to be able to get fish a little more reasonably for a few days at least.

ANOTHER J. K. COCKETT

The announcement last week of the death of Mrs. J. K. Cockett, formerly of Koloa, was incorrect. The Mrs. J. K. Cockett that died was the wife of J. K. Cockett, in the custom house, Honolulu, a nephew of J. K. Cockett of Koloa. The deceased was formerly Miss Bertie Mann of Kilauea.

A CORRECTION

Through a misunderstanding this paper on February 14 was made to say that O. C. Hee, Daniel Pang and F. Koonoy were proprietor of the Fong Garage, of Kapa. This was incorrect. F. Koonoy is the proprietor, and Messrs. Hee and Pang are employees therein.

religious worship for the inhabitants in their respective vicinities. They may, in a measure, correspond to the Jewish synagogues, at the commencement of the christian era. One in which I attended an examination of schools was 80 feet long, & 36 broad. I have seen others equally spacious. These are already luminous spots whence the light from heaven is gradually dispelling the darkness. And should the Board of Missions, be so happy, as to obtain missionaries possessing in a good degree, the spirit of primitive christians, they will one day exhibit "a burning, & a shining light" in which many will "rejoice" throughout the eternal ages. That such may be their result, is the sincere desire of your servant in Christ.

ERNEST GIESECKE, PIANO EXPERT TO VISIT KAUAI

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